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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, July 26, 2006)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, strong to save, we commit to You the Members of this legislative body. Make them faithful in their work and dependent upon Your providence. Guide them in their decisions. Strengthen them for each task. In their moments of perplexity, remind them of their responsibility to bring deliverance to captives and relief to the oppressed.

May they faithfully discharge their duties to You and to country. Let Your blessings rest upon their labors and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN CORNYN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Sen-

ator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CORNYN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to S. 3711 is agreed to and the Senate will proceed to consideration of the measure, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3711) to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as Senator from Texas, I note the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GREGG. On behalf of the leader, I will read the following statement:

This morning the Senate begins consideration of S. 3711, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security bill. I now ask unanimous consent that when the bill is reported, it be subject to debate only until 10:45 this morning, with the time

equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and that at 10:45 the majority leader be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Yesterday we had a full day of debate in relation to the Energy Security bill. We anticipate a number of Senators coming to the floor today in order to speak on the substance of the measure. The majority leader has indicated that the Senate could turn to other legislative items today if we are able to reach time agreements on those bills.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized on the minority time relative to the debate on S. 2711.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, pending before the Senate is a bill that will allow us to drill in areas of the Gulf of Mexico that currently are not being explored for oil and gas. There is some controversy attached to this proposal—whether this is an environmentally sound decision to go into these areas. The fact is in many parts of the Gulf of Mexico there is currently exploration and drilling for oil and gas, so it is not the same as the debate on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, where the administration was proposing that we drill in areas that have been protected for over half a century.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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